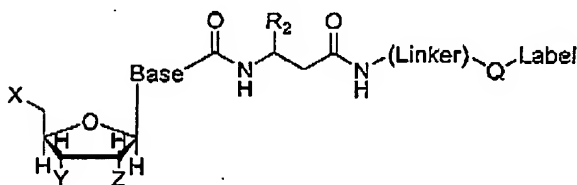


### Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

#### Listing of claims:

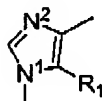
- 1 - 35. (Canceled).  
 36. (Amended) An oligonucleotide comprising a detectable label of formula XXII:



XXII

alone or in combination with a counterion thereof or a stable salt, solvate, clathrate or mixture thereof, wherein:

base is

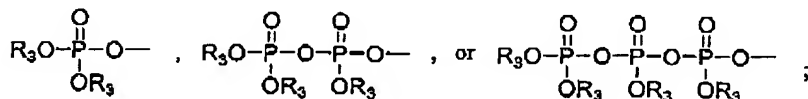


wherein sugar is covalently bonded to N<sup>1</sup> of the base;

wherein R<sub>1</sub> is -NHC(O)NH<sub>2</sub>, -H, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -OH, -O(alkyl), alkyl, or CO<sub>2</sub>H;

wherein R<sub>2</sub> is -H or alkyl;

each of X, Y, and Z is independently -H, -OH, -O(alkyl), -SH, -SR<sub>4</sub>, -NHR<sub>4</sub>, -NR<sub>4</sub>R<sub>5</sub>,



wherein R<sub>3</sub> is -H or metal;

R<sub>4</sub> is -H or alkyl;

R<sub>5</sub> is -H or alkyl;

linker is (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>n</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>, (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>n</sub>, (CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>n</sub> or (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>;

wherein n is an integer from 1 to 30;

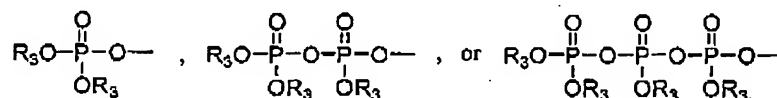
Q is O, S, or NH; and

label is a colorimetric, chemiluminescent, bioluminescent, a fluorescent compound, a non- or weakly fluorescent compound, or a quencher.

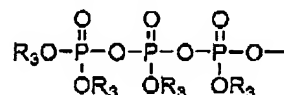
37. (original) The oligonucleotide of claim 36, wherein at least one of X, Y, and Z is OH.

38. (original) The oligonucleotide of claim 36, wherein each of X, Y, and Z is OH.

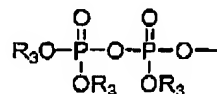
39. (original) The oligonucleotide of claim 36, wherein at least one of Y and Z is OH and X is



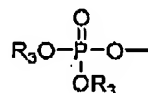
40. (original) The oligonucleotide of claim 36, wherein X is



41. (original) The oligonucleotide of claim 36, wherein X is



42. (original) The oligonucleotide of claim 36, wherein X is



43. (Canceled)

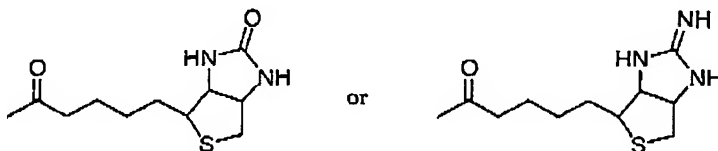
44. (original) The oligonucleotide of claim 36, wherein the linker is  $(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n$ , and wherein n is an integer from 1 to 10.

45. (original) The oligonucleotide of claim 36, wherein the label is biotin, a biotin derivative or a fluorophore.

46. (original) The oligonucleotide of claim 36, wherein the fluorophore is fluorescein, tetrachlorofluorescein, hexachlorofluorescein, a non or weakly fluorescent

compound, Cy3, tetramethylrhodamine, Cy3.5, carboxy-x-rhodamine, Texas Red, Cy5, Cy5.5, phycoerythrin, or allophycocyanin.

47. (original) The oligonucleotide of claim 36, wherein the label is



48 - 78. (Canceled)

79. (Currently amended) A kit for real time PCR assays comprising the detectable label of claim ~~35~~ 36, a negative or positive control, a buffer, and a DNA polymerase.

80. (Currently amended) A kit for RNase detection assays comprising the detectable label of claim ~~35~~ 36, a negative or positive control, a buffer, and RNase-free water.

81. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 36, wherein the linker is  $(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ .